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Directory of National Citizen Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Programs

Rhode Island Univ., Kingston

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Abstract: The directory was compiled from responses filled out by programs participating in the Role of Citizen Volunteers in Environmental Monitoring Workshop held May 23-25, 1988 at The University of Rhode Island. It contains the names, addresses, and brief descriptions of volunteer monitoring programs from around the country (with a focus on water quality monitoring programs) that participated in the workshop.

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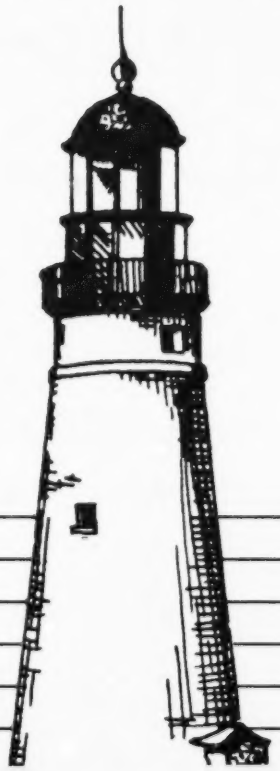
Directory of National Citizen Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Programs



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Directory of National Citizen Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Programs

This directory was compiled from responses filled out by programs participating in the *Role of Citizen Volunteers in Environmental Monitoring Workshop* held May 23-25, 1988, at The University of Rhode Island. It contains the names, addresses, and brief descriptions of volunteer monitoring programs from around the country (with a focus on water quality monitoring programs) that participated in the workshop.

We hope that this directory will serve as a resource for teachers, government and state agencies, civic associations, and town and country officials interested in starting a volunteer water quality monitoring program. We would like to expand this directory to include even more monitoring programs across the country. If you know of programs not listed here, please contact Virginia Lee, Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, The University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI 02882, (401) 792-6224.

State Programs

CONNECTICUT

Norwalk Harborwatch
60 Round Hill Drive
Stamford CT 06903

Arthur Glowka
(203) 322-3577

The Norwalk Harborwatch was set up in 1986 from fine money received in a settlement with the Norwalk sewage treatment plant. Five stations in the Norwalk River Estuary are measured for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and clarity. The goals of the program are to develop long-term trends and baseline studies. Norwalk Harborwatch also has an "operation shellfish" funded by the city of Stamford which monitors non-point runoff in Stamford and Rippowam River.

DELAWARE

Delaware Stream Watch
Ashland Nature Center
Delaware Nature Education Society
P.O. Box 700
Hockessin DE 19707

Amy White
(302) 239-2334

The program, initiated in 1985, utilizes approximately 40 volunteers to monitor rivers, lakes, and streams in Delaware. Volunteers conduct visual surveys, in addition to biological, chemical, and physical assessments (i.e., pH, D.O., temperature). Data are made available to state and local agencies. Funding for the program comes primarily from industrial fine money.

ILLINOIS

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
Division of Water Pollution Control
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield IL 62706

Janet B. Hawes
Donna F. Sefton
(217) 782-3362

Over 200 volunteers take part in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program which began in 1981 through the Illinois EPA. Volunteers are trained by Illinois EPA and Areawide Planning Commission personnel to measure Secchi transparency and total depth and to record field observations on their chosen lake. The information gathered on lake water quality is used by a variety of government and private organizations. This program has attained tremendous success by rewarding volunteers with achievement awards and maintaining contact with the volunteers through publications, training sessions, and annual meetings.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Water Watch
Division of Water
Kentucky Natural Resources
18 Reilly Road
Frankfort KY 40601

Ken Cooke
(502) 564-3410

The Kentucky Water Watch program is administered by the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Cabinet's Division of Water. Launched in 1985, Water Watch promotes individual responsibility for a common resource, educates the people about the use and protection of local water resources, provides a recreational opportunity through group activities, and gives citizens more access to their government. The program supports 200 volunteers who monitor 60 stations on lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands and in groundwater and drinking water systems.

MAINE

Maine's Voluntary Anglers
Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
RFD 3, P.O. Box 3770
Farmington ME 04938

Forrest R. Bonney
(207) 778-3322

Voluntary anglers have contributed data to Maine's fishery management program for more than 20 years. In 1987, anglers reported data on an estimated 418 waters statewide, representing 55,500 angler days. They provide information on their fishing trips by three major methods: the personal fishing diary, business reply cards, and creel survey box cards. While the information voluntary anglers provide is frequently lacking in detail and is not representative of the fishing public as a whole, it nonetheless provides precise data on important fishing parameters which are used to monitor perennial trends.

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County
Volunteer Monitoring Program
Office of Planning and Zoning
Arundel Center
Annapolis MD 21401

Patricia Haddon
(301) 280-1270

Estuarine tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay are monitored by volunteers at approximately 70 stations. Parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, depth, and temperature are measured in the water as well as air temperature, rainfall, and current weather conditions. Funding comes entirely from the county budget. The emphasis of this program includes baseline studies, education, watchdogging, and long-term trends for planning development within the watershed.

Chesapeake Bay Citizens Monitoring Program
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 110
Annapolis MD 21403

Kathy Ellett
(301) 266-6873

Three rivers, the James, Patuxent, and Conestoga are monitored for temperature, pH, Secchi disc depth, salinity, and dissolved oxygen and nitrogen with the help of 40 volunteers at 36 different sampling stations. Funding for this program comes from a Public Participation grant from USEPA and from private donations. Data are included as part of the bay-wide computerized monitoring data bank. The program stresses education and long-term trends as its central focus.

Marsh Monitoring Program
Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary
Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks Facility
1361 Wrighton Road
Lothian MD 20711

Christine Gault
(301) 741-9330

Wetlands along the Patuxent River and the adjacent uplands are monitored for weather, water quality, and plant and animal distributions. Historical research is also pursued. Funding for the program comes from the County Recreation and Parks department. The staff puts in a lot of effort to motivate the volunteers by providing them with educational and social experiences and letting them know that their services are greatly appreciated and worthwhile. Approximately 100 volunteers are involved in the program which began in 1987.

Save Our Streams Sediment Monitoring
250 City Hall
Baltimore MD 21202

Bruce A. VanDervort
(301) 396-5413

Save Our Streams Sediment Control Monitoring is dedicated toward working for a cleaner environment and for a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Their approach is to make construction site inspections to spot inadequate erosion controls and to report any problems to the city, state, and county authorities. Funding is provided by memberships, foundation grants, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

MASSACHUSETTS

Acid Rain Monitoring Program
Water Resource Research Center
Blaisell House
University of Massachusetts
Amherst MA 01003

Paul Godfrey
(413) 545-2842

This program, which has included up to 1,000 volunteers and 3,500 stations over its 6 years lifespan, tests surface waters for pH, alkalinity, major cations and anions, and metals. Private laboratories donate the analysis for free and are carefully checked for quality control. The results of the tests have been instrumental in state policy making for state emission reduction. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife presently funds the program. The Acid Rain Monitoring Project is interested in long-term trends and baseline studies.

Boston Harbor Monitoring Program
Massachusetts Audubon: Boston
3 Joy Street
Boston MA 02108

Betsey Johnson
(617) 367-1026

Six offshore and sixteen onshore stations in Boston Harbor are monitored for temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and clarity. The program, which began in 1986, involves 150 volunteers who are concerned with cleaning up Boston Harbor. Volunteers also produce newsletters which communicate the results of their monitoring to agencies such as the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority in addition to the scientific research community. Funding sources include the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Reilly Foundation.

Buzzards Bay Project
100 Cambridge Street
Boston MA 02202

Bruce Tripp
Carol Kilbride
(617) 727-9530

Since 1985, the Buzzards Bay Project has monitored the coastal environment for toxins and nutrients, and has conducted bacteria counts. Citizen volunteers have not been extensively used in this project which focuses on long-term trends and baseline studies. The results are complied into technical and synthesis reports, and incorporated in developing local regulations.

Citizens Monitoring of Water Quality in Coastal Ponds
WHOI Sea Grant Program
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole MA 02543

Dr. Alan W. White
(508) 540-4382

WHOI Sea Grant and the town of Falmouth have just recently funded this program to monitor the brackish coastal ponds in Falmouth for various physical and biological parameters. The program proposes to document present water quality status of the coastal ponds and to provide a database to assess the effects of future actions for municipal planning.

North Shore Harbor Monitoring Program
Massachusetts Audubon Society
159 Main Street
Gloucester MA 01930

Lesley Rowse
(617) 283-0598

The North Shore Harbor Monitoring Program is a two part volunteer effort. One part of the program checks water quality at shoreline sites in harbors. Twenty-six stations are measured for temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity. The Massachusetts Audubon Society supports this program with help from Northeastern Maine Lab and the Essex County Ecological Center. The second part of the program monitors winter waterfowl at select sites along the coast twice a month. Together, they utilize about 200 volunteers.

MICHIGAN

Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
P.O. Box 300
Conway MI 49722

Rob McLennan
(616) 347-1181

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, initiated in 1984, is a water resource protection organization funded through membership donation from lake associations and shoreline homeowners, and through various grants. Volunteers (about 20) complete a training course prior to the start of the field season, they measure average Secchi disk depth and chlorophyll a concentrations in a number of large lakes in Michigan. The Watershed Council and the Department of Natural Resources uses the data to determine existing water quality and year to year variability.

MINNESOTA

Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
Division of Water Quality
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul MN 55155

Judy A. Bostrom
(612) 297-3363

The lake monitoring program focuses on special issue awareness, watchdogging, and long-term trends. Through the efforts of the 247 volunteers who monitor 305 lakes in Minnesota and in conjunction with MPCA, action was taken against one polluter in 1984-85. Volunteers regularly monitor water transparency, loon counts, physical conditions, and recreational suitability. The program has been working since 1973 and is supported by federal funding through the Clean Water Act.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

N.H. Lakes Lay Monitoring Program
University of New Hampshire
Room 316 Nesmith Hall-Botany Department
Durham NH 03824

Jeff Schloss
(603) 862-3845/3848

The Lakes Lay Monitoring Program has been operating 10 years monitoring lakes and streams for a variety of physical, chemical, and biological parameters. The statewide effort samples 175 sites in 50 lakes with 423 volunteers participating. Their data is useful to planning commissions, lake associations, the Fish and Wildlife Department, and other planning and conservation agencies. Two bills in the N.H. House requiring septic tank inspections for lake homes and limiting water skiing on lakes utilized the information gathered by the volunteers. Funding sources include lake associations, individuals, towns, and conservation and planning commissions.

NEW JERSEY

N.J. Sea Grant Extension Service
Ocean County Extension Center
1623 Whitesville Road
Tom's River NJ 08753

John Tiedemann
(201) 349-1210

The volunteers in this program are members of fishing clubs, angler associations, and charter boat associations. They collect data on marine recreational fishes and monitor coastal water quality. Government agencies assist in supporting the program and benefit from the results collected by volunteers. Lectures are offered to participants as a means of educating the public.

Trash Attack
(Clean Ocean Action)
P.O. Box 126
Seabright NJ 07760

Cindy Zipf
(201) 229-6443

This program is designed to clean up beach litter along the New Jersey shoreline. Over 300 volunteers help in collecting and inventorying plastics, glass, and aluminum found in beach litter. The results of Trash Attack have been used by state and local governments. In one instance Trash Attack results were reported in the Congressional Record under the Plastic Pollution Control Act of 1987 supporting action to control the amount of plastics found on New Jersey beaches.

"Waterwatch"
N.J. Division of Water Resources
Office of Public Participation
CN-029
Trenton NJ 086254

Judy Morgan
(609) 633-3717

In one year the Water Watch program has grown to include several thousand volunteers who monitor 35 different water resources. Individual groups are responsible for their "adopted" water resource where they conduct regular visual surveys and one initial chemical analysis. The program plans to evolve according to the interests and response of the participating groups and organizations. Their main concern is non-point source pollution.

NEW YORK

Adopt-A-Stream
Delta Laboratories, Inc.
34 Elton Street
Rochester NY 14607

Stephen D. Rains
(617) 271-5333

Delta Laboratories operates an accredited, fully equipped and staffed analytical laboratory which sponsors a citizen monitoring program called "Adopt-A-Stream." In the "Adopt-A-Stream" program students, led by a science teacher, agree to periodically monitor their adopted waterway by obtaining and analyzing water samples. The objectives of the program are to improve and protect the quality of the waterways, and to develop the next generation of environmentally conscious adults.

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP)
N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water-Lake Services Sector
50 Wolf Road, Room 317
Albany NY 12233-1010

Scott Kishbaugh
(518) 457-7470

The CSLAP monitors New York lakes for a variety of physical, biological, and chemical parameters such as temperature, chlorophyll a, nutrients, pH, conductivity, aquatic vegetation, lake levels, and others. The group concentrates on baseline studies and long-term trends to build databases for management strategies. The results are communicated through annual reports, newsletters, press releases, and group presentations. Financial assistance is provided through the New York State Budget.

Hudson River National Estuary Research Reserve
c/o Bard College Field Station
Annandale NY 12504

Betsy Blair
(914) 758-5193

This program is planning to establish a volunteer monitoring effort, sampling tidal wetlands (freshwater and brackish) and tributaries along the Hudson River. Biological, physical, and chemical parameters will be measured for developing long-term trends and baseline studies. Education and special issue awareness will also be stressed. Funding will come from federal, state, and private contributions.

Project Riverwatch
Environmental Science Program
Division of Natural Science
State University of New York at Purchase
Purchase NY 10577

Dr. Barbara Dexter
(914) 253-5055

Riverwatch participants are comprised primarily of college and high school students plus teachers, members of conservation organizations, and community volunteers. Individual groups are responsible for measuring chemical and physical parameters at a particular lake, stream, or reservoir and then compiling the results into an annual technical report. The program is designed to provide long-term research studies and to provide an educational experience to the participants.

NORTH CAROLINA

Currituck Sound/Back Bay Monitoring Program
901 W. Church Street
Elizabeth City NC 27909

Yates Barber
(919) 338-3557

This program is just in its initial stages of developing monitoring stations for Currituck Sound and Back Bay. They propose to monitor tide levels, dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, and turbidity at 10-12 stations. Already 35 volunteers have expressed interest. The main goals of the program are resource management, baseline studies, long-term trends, education, and special issue awareness.

Stream Watch-Neuse River Foundation
P.O. Box 355
Oriental, NC 28571

Grace B. Evans
(919) 249-1748

The Stream Watch program monitors rivers, streams, and estuaries at six stations with approximately 50 volunteers. The program centers on education, watchdogging, long-term trends, and special issue awareness. The program has been underway seven years with financial support from individual and corporate funding and from fund raising efforts.

North Carolina Stream Watch
Division of Water Resources
N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh NC 27611

Jim Mead
Ferne Winborne
(919) 733-4064

This program, initiated in 1982 will soon receive a summer intern and full-time coordinator to "get the ball rolling" again. Funding is limited and comes primarily from individual sources. Lakes, streams, and rivers are monitored by volunteers. The program is focused on education and special issue awareness.

OHIO

Ohio Scenic River Stream Quality Monitoring Program
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Bldg. 1889 Fountain Square Court
Columbus OH 43224

John Kopec
(614) 265-6458

The stream quality in ten streams is based on assigning point values to 20 taxa of macroinvertebrates depending on their tolerance to levels of pollution. In 1987 alone, over 3,000 volunteers monitored 150 stations along Ohio streams. Funding sources include money generated by the state income tax refund checkoff program and from general revenue funds and grants. The program started in 1983 and provides information for baseline studies and long-term trends.

OREGON

Get the Drift and Bag It
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 59
Portland OR 97202

Judie Neilson
(503) 229-5406

Since 1984 a grand total of 2,700 volunteers cleaned up 14 coastal sites along the Oregon coast. Stressing the importance of beach clean-ups and the adverse effects on wildlife keeps the volunteer response high. The program has provided information for federal and state legislation related to plastic recycling and required deposits on wine cooler containers. Government and private sources are funding sources for the beach clean up effort.

PENNSYLVANIA

Chesapeake Bay Citizens Monitoring Program
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 110
Annapolis MD 21403

Kathy Elliott
(301) 226-6873

(See project description under Maryland listings.)

RHODE ISLAND

Salt Pond Watchers
Coastal Resources Center
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett RI 02882

Virginia Lee
(401) 792-6224

Fifty Salt Pond Watchers monitor 7 estuarine inland bays in Rhode Island. They sample the waters for bacteria, chlorophyll a, nutrients, turbidity, salinity, temperature, and check for evidence of eelgrass-wasting disease. The results are used by state and municipal government agencies such as the R.I. Department of Environmental Management for shellfish closures, for drafting new sewage disposal system standards, and for wastewater management policies. The program is primarily interested in developing baseline studies and long-term trends for use in management decisions and for future research.

TENNESSEE

TVA Teacher/Student Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network
Environmental/Energy Education Program
1A11 Old City Hall Complex
Knoxville TN 37902

Linda Fowler
Neil Carriker
(615) 632-6442

TVA started a program in 1986 as part of a science education program for students and teachers. The participants sample about 20 streams per year for physical and chemical parameters. Federal appropriations to TVA support the program with some matching funding coming from local school systems. The program organizers have been exceptionally pleased with the enthusiasm of the participants and the quality of their testing.

TEXAS

Environmental Education and Public Information
Department of Environmental Protection
City of Austin, P.O. Box 1088
Austin TX 78767

Joey Crumley
(512) 499-2658

Presently volunteers work with the water quality division on data entry and analysis. Annually, volunteers take part in two events: 1) Household Chemical Collection Day and 2) Voluntary Vehicle Emissions Testing. The department also operates an "Environmental Hot Line" for citizen watchdogging. The organizers plan to expand the volunteer program to include water quality monitoring.

Texas Coastal Cleanup,
"Be a Beach Buddy"
Gulf States Regional Office
Center for Environmental
Education
1201 West 24th Street
Austin TX 78705

Linda Maraniss
(512) 477-6424

Since 1986, this gulf coast beach clean up effort has been an annual event which last year drew over 7,000 volunteers! They covered over 158 miles of beaches collecting and inventorying trash. In just three hours volunteers collected 309 tons of trash. Reports from these efforts were used in U.S. Senate Ratification of Annex V of the 1987 Marpool Treaty. Environmental awareness is a key in motivating volunteers to help with trash pick-up. Funding from private, corporate, and educational sources all support the efforts of this program.

VIRGINIA

Chesapeake Bay Citizens
Monitoring Program
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 110
Annapolis MD 21403

Kathy Ellett
(301) 226-6873

(See project description under Maryland listings.)

WASHINGTON

Adopt-A-Beach
Volunteers for Outdoor
Washington
607 Third Avenue, Room 210
Seattle WA 98104

Ken Pritchard
(206) 344-2544

The Adopt-A-Beach program responds to the needs of government contracts in its monitoring effort. Since its initiation in 1985, the program has usually monitored marine environments. The parameters measured, the number of stations, and the number of volunteers all vary depending on the specific project. The program focuses on baseline studies, education, long-term trends, and health effects. Monitoring projects are only one aspect of their work. Adopt-A-Beach also has education and rehabilitation projects.

Adopt-A-Stream Foundation
P.O. Box 5558
Everett WA 98201

Tom Murdoch
(206) 259-9488

The Adopt-A-Stream Foundation was established to promote environmental education and stream enhancement. Since the program was started in 1981 by the Snohomish County Planning Department, 19 community groups and 25 schools have adopted streams in Snohomish County. They hope to eventually have every stream in the Northwest adopted by watershed residents and to have every stream restored to the way it was 100 years ago.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Mountain Stream Monitors
P.O. Box 170
Morgantown WV 26505

Craig Mains
(304) 292-3463

Streams in West Virginia are measured for acid mine drainage parameters such as pH, iron, manganese, sulfate, conductivity, and benthic invertebrates. Approximately 35 volunteers monitor 50 different stations. MSM is also working to develop a water analytical laboratory to serve low and moderate income citizens and groups. Both programs focus on baseline studies, education, and watch-dogging.

WISCONSIN

Self-Help Lake Monitoring Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Water Resources Management
P.O. Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Carolyn Rumery
(608) 266-8117

Beginning in 1986, a number of lakes in Wisconsin have been monitored by approximately 210 volunteers. They measure Secchi disc depth and lake level plus note the water color, water quality, and the weather. State funds support the program which in turn provides results for organizations such as USGS, WIDNR, and County Land Conservation Departments. The central focus is on baseline studies, long-term trends, and education.

National Programs

Citizen's Acid Rain Monitoring Network
National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York NY 10022

Dorene Bolze
(212) 546-9189

The National Audubon Society sponsors an acid rain monitoring network to measure the pH in precipitation. To date, 240 volunteers record pH measurements. The information is used by the press and television weather forecasters and is also sent to congressional representatives along with encouragement to support more rigorous clean air legislation. The citizen monitors are contacted by the staff through periodic newsletters. They are occasionally asked to communicate their results through interviews with local newspapers and television stations.

Cooperative Weather Observer Program
National Weather Service
NOAA
Silver Spring MD 20910

Thomas Blackburn
(301) 427-7724

This volunteer program has the longest history of using citizen volunteers to monitor environmental issues. Starting in 1890, the program now boasts 11,500 volunteers who record rainfall, snowfall, and maximum and minimum temperatures. For their efforts, volunteers receive awards for length of service and outstanding quality of observations. All of their data is checked and logged into the National Weather Service database. The results are printed in a newsletter and are frequently used to verify damage caused by adverse weather, and to justify congressional funding for flood and weather observing networks.

EarthWatch
680 Mt. Auburn Street
P.O. Box 403
Watertown MA 82172

Blue Magruder
(617) 926-8200

Earthwatch is a national non-profit organization which sponsors field research worldwide by finding paying volunteers to work on short-term (2-3 week) assistantships to scholars. Founded in 1971, the organization has sponsored 978 projects in 79 countries and 36 states, using over 20,000 volunteers. Typically, university based Ph.D.s direct the labor intensive research in areas such as earth, marine, and life sciences. The results of the work are published in magazines and professional journals.

International Shorebird Survey
Manomet Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 936
Manomet MA 02345

Brian Harrington
Linda Leddy
(617) 224-6521

The ISS utilizes about 800 volunteers to monitor shorebird migration and habitats throughout America. Birdwatchers record the presence, absence, and distribution of shorebirds and their habitat characteristics. The data collected is used by many local, state, and federal government agencies and by national and local conservation groups. The program has been in existence since 1973 and stresses long-term trends and baseline studies.

National River Watch Network
153 State Street
Montpelier VT 05602

Jack Byrne
(802) 223-3840

River Watch Network (RWN) is a national, non-profit program that assists local groups in starting river monitoring and protection programs. RWN grew from a very successful program to clean up the Ottauquechee River in central Vermont in 1970. The program provides local monitoring groups with effective methods and techniques for improving the quality of their water. They focus on transforming polluted waterways into rivers fit for recreational use.

Save Our Streams
Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.
1701 North Fort Meyer Drive
Suite 1100
Arlington VA 22209

Richard Klein
(301) 357-4421

The Izaak Walton League has initiated over 200 stream watch programs across the country. They provide a variety of resource materials including a quarterly newsletter on national stream monitoring programs, a citizen's guide to clean water stream survey methods, and a reference guide to testing kits. They also specialize in resources for classroom teachers including films and teaching outlines.